Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board Spring 2010

JustNews

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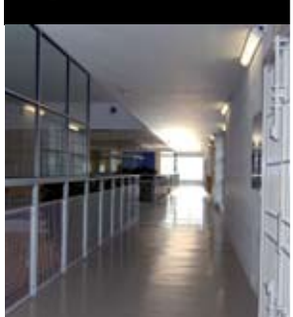

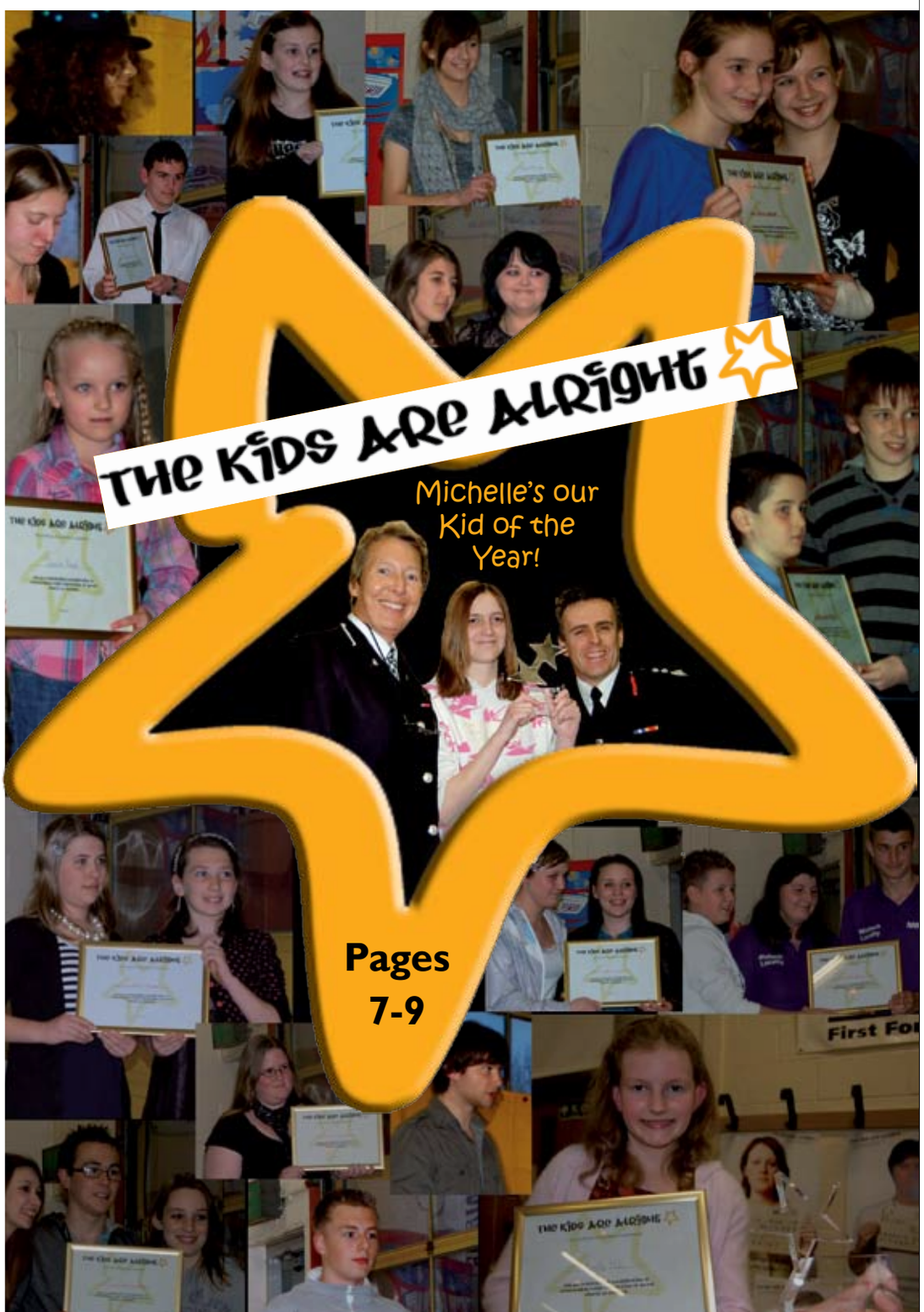

CAMBRIDGESHIRE CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD
Criminal Justice System: working together for the public

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Welcome to the Spring edition of Just News. In this edition we focus on young people.

We often read shocking headlines about youth crime - and there have been some very serious crimes in the national press in recent months - but the reality is that a tiny fraction of young people actually break the law – and many make positive contributions to their communities.

It can be easy to forget that young people want to live in safe communities just as much as the rest of the population and that young people are often the victims of crime themselves.

Our cover story's about our award-winning, youth stereotype-busting Kids Are Alright campaign, which has just finished its first year in Fenland – and is now taking off in other parts of the country. You can read about The Kids Are Alright on pages 7-9, including the inspirational story behind our Kid of the Year, Michelle Ewart. This could not have happened without a number of our partners coming together and is a great example of a project coming together and doing something really creative.

In this edition we also take a look at what happens to the small minority of young people who do commit crime and what the youth justice system is all about on page 4. Find out about Pick a Site, We'll Put it Right, a youth reparation scheme that lets the public have their say, and read about the new youth conditional caution being piloted in Cambridgeshire.

On the subject of youth, we feature Dance Offensive, a high-flying Cambridge dance troupe whose members include Youth Offending Service referrals, on page 10. Meanwhile Wisbech schools take a trip down memory lane and learn about old style justice on page 13.

On a different topic, two brave abuse survivors share their stories in the hope that they can help others escape sexual and domestic violence.

This edition of Just News is packed full of news and features from the frontline of Cambridgeshire's justice system.

I look forward to hearing from you and getting your feedback.

Regards

Tom Jefford, Chair, Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board

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HELP FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

By Shelley Spratt

EAST Anglia's first purpose-built centre for sex abuse victims has been opened in Peterborough.

The Oasis @ Rivergate was officially opened by former Minister for the East of England Barbara Follett on January 11.

Mrs Follett said: ""Sexual abuse can be psychologically intensely difficult and scarring, and we want to make sure that what happens to [victims] afterwards, the service they receive to help them cope, works for them."

The Oasis is the first Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) in the region, assisting Cambridgeshire victims of rape and sexual assault.

Set up by Cambridgeshire Constabulary in partnership with the NHS and Rape Crisis, it offers a range of important medical, support and forensic services, including counselling, pregnancy testing and screening for sexually transmitted infections.

Assistant Chief Constable Mark Hopkins, who attended the launch, said: "Ensuring rape and sexual assault victims get the best possible service and all the support they need is an issue close to the force's heart. The SARC offers a range of important medical, support and forensic services which will assist the force and partner agencies."

Those who use the facilities are under no obligation to report their incident to police but any forensic samples taken at the centre will be kept on record in case they change their minds or to be used anonymously by officers as intelligence on potential serial offenders.

Detective Chief Inspector Melanie Dales, who is leading the project, said: "The purpose of the centre is to make it easier for victims to get help by having all of the services under one roof, as at the moment services are spread across the county."

Victims are also given the opportunity to report their offence to a specially trained officer (STO).

Former East of England Minister Barbara Follett, sexual health manager Kay Elmy and Rape Crisis chair Sonia Hitch officially open The Oasis.

Victims of sexual abuse can get help 24/7 by calling The Oasis @ Rivergate on 0845 089 6262. If you're in immediate danger please call 999.

SUZY'S STORY

By Tali Iserles

SUZY was a happy, confident child who enjoyed playing with her mates outdoors. But all that changed at the age of 11.

Preyed upon by a family acquaintance, she was subjected to daily abuse over two-and-a-half years.

Too ashamed to share her secret, Suzy recalls crying herself to sleep at night, blaming herself for what had happened.

Now in her twenties, the Peterborough student is rebuilding her life and seeking therapy to help her come to terms with her harrowing past.

Praise for The Oasis

Suzy, not her real name, gave media interviews during the opening of The Oasis @ Rivergate in the hope that by speaking out, she could encourage other victims to seek help.

She said the sexual assault referral centre would help victims across Cambridgeshire.

A traumatic childhood

From the age of 11, Suzy was sexually and emotionally abused on a daily basis. She would be beaten with a belt if she swore.

Her abuser, who was in his forties, gained her family's trust and emotionally blackmailed her.

She said: "I thought it was my fault. I felt so ashamed I would cry at night time. I couldn't tell my mum."

When the abuse started, Suzy was still in primary school.

"I was very naïve. I used to like playing games with my mates. I stopped playing outside and became withdrawn. I felt like I had a big secret and couldn't tell anybody about it. To this day I find it hard to trust people."

Seeking help

Suzy eventually confided in a family member who suspected she was being abused.

She said her family and the NSPCC were very supportive.

When she began counselling, she was surprised to discover that other people had suffered similar experiences.

"I was shocked because I thought I was the only one."

She urged anyone experiencing sexual abuse to contact The Oasis @ Rivergate and get support.

"You are not alone. There is help out there. Talk to someone."

"I thought it was my fault. I felt so ashamed I would cry at night."

TEEN TAGGER GETS FIRST YOUTH CONDITIONAL CAUTION

By Tali Iserles

A TEENAGER responsible for a tagging spree in Cottenham is the first person in Cambridgeshire to receive a youth conditional caution.

The 17-year-old, who lives in a nearby village, was served with the caution on March 1. He has 16 weeks to make good the harm he's done to the community.

In January bus stops, garages and walls throughout Cottenham were blitzed with graffiti. Fifteen cases were reported to police.

Under the conditions of the youth conditional caution, the teen will have to carry out 10 hours of reparation, which will include cleaning up graffiti and litter around the village.

He'll also attend a restorative meeting, during which one of his victims will have the chance to explain how his actions have affected her.

The Cambridgeshire Youth Offending Service has offered the opportunity for all known victims to take part in the restorative meeting. While most didn't wish to participate, they expressed relief that the offender had been caught and would be made accountable for his actions.

Youth conditional cautioning is a new scheme being piloted in Cambridgeshire. Launched on January 26, it ensures effective community-based justice is achieved out of court for a defined range of first time offenders, aged between 16 and 17. More serious offences will continue to go to court.

Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board chair Tom Jefford, who also heads the county's Youth Offending Service, welcomed the new out of court measure available to police and Crown prosecutors.

Mr Jefford said: "Youth conditional cautioning provides a way of disposing of offences which is timely and marks the fact that an offence has taken place but importantly gives the victim a voice. I am confident that the public will welcome this as it is a proportionate way of dealing with lower level offences and action is being taken to address offending at an early stage."

The sort of offences that may be considered for a youth conditional caution include common assault, drunk and disorderly offences, theft, possession of drugs and certain public order offences.

Cautions come with clear conditions attached, which can be reparative (eg paying compensation to the victim or a charity), rehabilitative (eg attending substance abuse counselling) or punitive (eg paying fines). The victim gets the chance to be involved in the process.

If the conditions made in the youth conditional caution are not completed within 16 weeks of the order being made, the young person will normally face criminal charges.

ORCHARD PICKED FOR MAKEOVER BY YOUNG OFFENDERS

By Tali Iserles

AN ANCIENT orchard has been picked by the public for a makeover by young people referred to the Cambridgeshire Youth Offending Service (YOS).

The Harston Community Orchard received the most votes in Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board's pioneering "Pick a Site, We'll Put it Right" youth reparation scheme.

The orchard, owned by Harston Parish Council and managed by Cambridge Green Belt Project and volunteers, is due to get blitzed by supervised young people referred to YOS.

Work included putting chipped bark on paths and planting young apple trees, grafted from 16th and 17th Century local varieties, as well as tree surgery, weeding, mowing and general maintenance.

Restorative justice manager Jasmine Bennett, of Cambridgeshire YOS, said: "This is the first time that Cambridgeshire residents have been directly involved in selecting sites for youth reparation, so we're delighted that people have taken the opportunity to have their say. As the Pick a Site, We'll Put it Right winner, the Harston Community Orchard will get cleaned up first – but we expect that each of the six shortlisted sites will benefit from youth reparation over the next year."

In January, people were asked to recommend sites for youth reparation across Cambridgeshire.

To qualify, projects had to benefit the community, not take paid work from anyone else and not make someone a profit. The work had to be challenging, worthwhile and constructive.

Eight sites were suggested by the public. Following a risk and suitability assessment, six were shortlisted, and between February 26 and April 1, people were able to go online and vote for their favourite.

Those to make the final six were the Harston Community Orchard, a children's playground in Harston, Animal Helpline Dog Rescue in Wansford, the March Sconce, Peterborough Millennium Green Wheel and the Pyramid Community Centre in Peterborough.

The Harston orchard received the most public votes (27), followed by the village playground (17 votes).

Cambridgeshire YOS is responsible for co-ordinating youth justice services for 10 to 17-year-olds throughout the county.

In the past young people referred to the service have cleared undergrowth, picked litter, cleaned, painted, decorated and done basic carpentry.

For more on Pick a Site, We'll Put it Right, see www.cjsonline.gov.uk/Cambs

THE POLICING PLEDGE - YOUR RIGHTS BEYOND 999

The Policing Pledge is a national set of promises to the public which every police force has signed up to, including Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Through the pledge, every police force promises to listen to you and your neighbours, and to act on any problems you raise with them.

The pledge promises that:

- police will treat you with dignity and respect at all times
- emergency 999 calls will be answered within 10 seconds and help will be sent immediately
- if you call 999, you'll be told when help will get there, and it will be there on time
- police will handle non-emergency calls quickly
- if you need to make an appointment to discuss local crime problems, you can
- neighbourhood policing teams will spend at least 80% of their time visibly working in your neighbourhood
- your neighbourhood policing team will keep you informed about what they are doing about local issues and priorities

The pledge also says that if you're unhappy with the service you've received and you report that to the police, police will get in touch within 24 hours and discuss the situation with you. They will give you the opportunity to talk about it with someone from your local police, in person.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE DELIVERING ON PLEDGE PROMISE TO VICTIMS

BEING a victim of crime is never pleasant but it's something Cambridgeshire police are trying to make easier.

Victim care contracts have been in place for some time, ensuring victims are given a chance to say how often and in what form they'd like to receive updates from their investigating officer.

Research shows 98% of crime victims who'd agreed how often they'd be kept informed were happy with the arrangement.

Chief Constable Julie Spence said: "Part nine of the Policing Pledge makes it clear that victims have a right to be kept updated on the investigation into their crime and this is something the force takes extremely seriously. The victim care contracts mean that victims can choose how often they are contacted by the officer investigating their crime, at what time in the day and by their preferred method. We want to make the experience of being a victim of crime as painless as possible and this is just one of the ways we are dong this."

The force has also used crime victims' feedback to improve the service the public receive.

ABUSE VICTIM REBUILDS HER LIFE

By Erin Mitchell

A VICTIM of domestic violence has spoken out in the hope of encouraging other victims to put their trust in the justice system. Her name and her former partner's have been changed to protect her identity.

Lisa, 31, met her abuser Pete, 38, on a night out with friends at their local pub in 2006. It was love at first sight and a whirlwind romance followed with the couple moving in together just three months later.

Lisa said: "He was one of the most charming people I have ever met and people loved being around him but in private he quickly became different."

Shortly after moving in together Lisa noticed Pete drinking heavily and smoking cannabis.

Pete was a builder and following an accident he had to spend several weeks in hospital. During that time his controlling ways became evident: "He wouldn't let the nurses go near him and it was me who had to bath and dress him. If I didn't do it exactly right he would shout at me in front of the other patients and it was really embarrassing."

When Pete came home from hospital he couldn't go straight back to work so Lisa took on more shifts in her job as a social care manager.

"Because I was spending more time out of the house Pete became jealous and started to accuse me of spending time with other men. This was when the abuse became physical."

Lisa tried to hide the abuse for a while but it was becoming clear to those around her that something wasn't right.

"I started wearing thicker make-up to cover up marks and cuts on my face, I thought no one could tell but of course they could."

Lisa tried to leave Pete but the abuse continued. In June 2009 she called police after he attacked her in her home.

"It was hard to admit to myself that I couldn't change him. I loved him so much and with my job in social care I thought I would be able to help him. After one terrible row I contacted the police but I was so nervous about what would happen next.

"It appeared that Pete was already known to the officer who first came to the scene. They took a long statement from me and told me that I would be updated in the next month."

Within five days Pete had been arrested and charged with common assault.

Lisa was updated straight away. Keeping victims informed is point nine of the Policing Pledge and takes on added significance when the victim is vulnerable.

Lisa said: "He asked me to meet him in the park which foolishly I agreed to do. He tried to get me to drop the charges and for a while I seriously considered it. People who hadn't seen his behaviour behind closed doors told me that he didn't deserve to end up in prison."

The case was scheduled for court in December 2009: "It felt like forever to wait and I tried to get on with my life but it wasn't easy. The night before the court case I couldn't sleep, I was still questioning if I was doing the right thing. In the end I knew I had to go through with it to stop him doing it to anyone else."

Pete was found guilty of two counts of assault and was sentenced to 26 months in prison.

Lisa said: "I just felt empty. I suppose I was relieved but I still had so much to do to pick up the pieces of my life.

"I have been left with a huge amount of debt which built up when I was supporting him and as a consequence I have lost my home, bailiffs have taken away all the furniture I had worked so hard to buy over the years. I literally have nothing and am starting my life over again. All I wanted to do was love him but that just wasn't enough."

Lisa hopes other abuse victims will learn from her experience and get help as soon as possible.

"I still blame myself for being too trusting but now I can see that I was manipulated from the beginning. I would urge anyone else in my position not to put up with it. Help is out there and you can eventually get your life back on track."

For advice about domestic violence see www.cambs-police.co.uk/help/domesticviolence/

IN BRIEF

Playpark is needle-free

NO NEEDLES have been found at a playpark for following action by police and Littleport Parish Council.

Earlier this year a local man was pricked by a discarded needle. Since then, authorities have worked hard to clear up the problem and return the park to a safe environment for children. No needles have been found since January 27.

Sergeant Will Davis said: "The neighbourhood policing team and parish council have made a real effort to clear up the problem and we're pleased to say we haven't found any needles at the park for weeks now. There is ongoing work to install CCTV cameras there to prevent any further offending or misuse of the park."

'Courtroom' drives home road safety message

A LARGER than life courtroom helped drive home road safety messages to primary school pupils in Peterborough.

Youngsters from over 20 schools took part in 'Courtroom', an interactive theatre piece organised by the SaferPeterborough partnership and Tiny Giants Theatre Company.

The play, performed at Fulbridge Primary School on March 9, showed youngsters how to keep safe while walking near roads or travelling by car. They were taught how to cross the road using The Green Cross Code and learnt about the importance of wearing seatbelts.

During the session, pupils watched a courtroom drama unfold, involving a fictional road smash. The young audience played the role of jury, delivering ther verdict at the end.

SaferPeterborough road safety officer Clair George said: "Education theatre is a highly effective way to inform children about important road safety issues. This production allows pupils to identify dangerous situations and learn in a fun and interactive way."

Last year 10 children aged 15 or under were killed or maimed on Peterborough roads.

Junior PCSO scheme extended

STUDENTS at six Huntingdonshire primary schools have discovered what it takes to become a police community support officer (PCSO).

The six-week Junior PSCO programme included a visit to the police helicopter as well as sessions about drugs, alcohol and hate crime.

Youngsters worked alongside a real PCSO as well as representatives from the Fire Service, Dialdrug Link and Huntingdonshire District Council. The scheme, run by Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership, was rolled out after a successful pilot at Godmanchester Primary School last year.

Godmanchester PCSO Debbie Thorburn said: "It provided a great opportunity for police and others to engage with young people and find out more about the issues affecting them. We were able to offer them advice on staying safe and exchanged ideas on how they can become more involved with the local community."

SAVINGS SCHEME TO SLASH REOFFENDING TO BE PILOTED IN PETERBOROUGH

A SAVINGS scheme with a difference is due to be piloted at Peterborough Prison this summer, aimed at reducing reoffending.

The six-year Social Impact Bond (SiB), run by social investment firm Social Finance, will help about 3000 prisoners serving less than 12 months to receive intensive help, both while at Peterborough Prison and in the community.

These will include mentoring support inside the prison, focusing on the individual needs of each prisoner. After release, participants will be given help with getting housing, employment and other services, such as substance addiction support. The scheme will be available to all short term prisoners at Peterborough Prison on a voluntary basis.

Social Finance will raise up to £5 million to fund the Peterborough pilot. Funding from investors outside Government will initially be used to pay for the services, which will be delivered by Third Sector providers with a proven track record of working with offenders, such as London-based charity, the St Giles Trust.

If the scheme cuts reoffending by 7.5% or more, investors will receive a share of the longterm savings. If reoffending is not reduced by at least 7.5% the investors will receive no recompense.

The county's justice chiefs have welcomed the introduction of the SiB as a groundbreaking way of reducing reoffending.

Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board chair Tom Jefford, who also heads the county's Youth Offending Service, said: "This is an exciting opportunity to create an innovative means of securing much needed investment in work with short sentence adult offenders on their release from custody.

"I have no doubt that the community will welcome this initiative to get adult offenders back into work or training as quickly as possible so that they can get on with their lives away from offending."

Peterborough Prison was chosen to pilot the scheme as it holds short term offenders, many of whom are released back into the region.

Trevor Williams, Director of Offender Management for the East of England, said he was delighted the region had been selected to trial the SiB.

Mr Williams said: "This pilot in HMP Peterborough will allow us to look at how we fund interventions for offenders serving custodial sentences of less than 12 months in a whole new way, and with less impact on the public purse.

"Reducing reoffending in the East of England is my top priority and this new and innovative way of funding services from outside Government in an effort to tackle offending behaviour is a perfect example of how the National Offender Management Service is engaging with a wide range of sectors to benefit local communities."

Chief Constable Julie Spence said: "It is vital that we engage with offenders at an early stage after their release from prison to try to prevent them from offending in the future.

"Research has shown that the majority of crime is committed by a minority of people and that reoffending rates are high within this group. It is therefore important the interventions are positive and proactive."

Social Finance Chief Executive David Hutchison said he hoped in time the SiB would be rolled out across the country to invest in a wide arrange of services.

Mr Hutchinson said: "There is scarcely an area of social or healthcare policy where prevention or early intervention isn't both cost effective and socially desirable. We envisage that future applications of the SiB might cover such disparate programmes as enhanced support for foster carers, homecare services for older people or nursing in the home for the chronically sick."

The Kids Are Alright

The Kids Are Alright is a multi award-winning, youth stereotype-busting newspaper campaign, piloted in Fenland and now also running in Plymouth. To mark the end of the project's first year in Fenland, we held an awards ceremony for all of the young people featured. Tali Iserles reports.

Ex-homeless teen wins Kids Are Alright Awards

A FORMER teenage tearaway who turned her life around has been crowned Kid of the Year at an awards ceremony recognising positive youth contributions.

Michelle Ewart, 19, from Wisbech, beat eight other finalists to win the prestigious prize, chosen by readers of the Cambs Times and Wisbech Standard newspapers.

Michelle was presented with a trophy and £150 of shopping vouchers by Cambridgeshire Chief Constable Julie Spence during The Kids Are Alright Awards at Wisbech Fire Station on Monday 29 March.

Three years ago, Michelle became homeless after breaking the law and getting into trouble at school. She was referred to the young people's careers advice service Connexions and went on to complete the Prince's Trust Award and a 12-week course at Wisbech Fire Station, aimed at boosting young people's confidence.

Michelle, pictured below with Mrs Spence and Chief Fire Officer Graham Stagg, now volunteers as a youth worker in Murrow and Parson Drove, helping other young people unlock their potential.

She said she was surprised to win the Kid of the Year Award, crediting Connexions adviser Dawn Carter for helping her transform her life.

Emily Hill, 13, of Whittlesey, and Abbie Ross, 18, of Friday Bridge, were declared Kid of the Year runners-up, receiving trophies and prizes of £50 in shopping vouchers each.

Emily, pictured right, raised over £2250 for Great Ormond Street Hospital, moved by the plight of her friend Siobhan Southwell, who had to have her kidney replaced in 2007.

She raised most of the cash by climbing Mount Snowdon when she was just 10.

Abbie recently spent six months volunteering at a school, orphanage and hospital in Kenya, helping some of the world's poorest children.

The Kids Are Alright Awards marked the end of the *Cambs Times* and *Wisbech Standard's* multi award-winning, youth stereotype-busting Kids Are Alright campaign.

Twenty-six young people and 15 youth teams were honoured for their positive contributions to the Fenland community throughout the evening, which included entertainment by Cambridge breakdance crew Dance Offensive and drama students from Peterborough Regional College.

Dignitaries attending the awards included Mrs Spence, Mr Stagg, Fenland district councillors Steve Garratt and Ken Mayor, Wisbech Mayor Yvonne Lawrence and Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council, Councillor Jill Tuck.

The evening was hosted by Fenland Youth District Councillors Phoebe Nickalls and Siana Rawlings.

The Kids Are Alright also involves the Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board, Fenland District Council, Fenland Youth District Council, Connexions, the Fire Service and Cambridgeshire County Council.

All of the artwork was produced by Wisbech graphic designer Beth Moore, 20, and features local youth.

See www.cambstimes.co.uk/content/cambstimes/kidsarealright/default.aspx

For more about The Kids Are Alright see pages 7-8

The Kids Are Alright

In this edition of Just News, we pay a special tribute to the young people featured in our multi award-winning Kids Are Alright campaign.

THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT AWARDS IN PICTURES

THIS PAGE: top, from left: drama students from Peterborough Regional College perform a piece about youth stereotypes; Sophie Venni and Shelby Hancock of the Girls Group receive their certificate from *Cambs Times* and *Wisbech Standard* editor, John Elworthy. Middle: Bethany Smith, Sam Russell and Lily Moore of Marshland High School; Whitney Gillen and Leah Shailes of Young People March; Cadell and Connor Kelly; Mackenzie Cobbin, Lauren Wymer and Jordan Hancock of the Monday Night Youth Club receive their certificates. Bottom: Dance Offensive strut their stuff.

OPPOSITE PAGE: top, from left: Ellie Hall receives her certificate from John Elworthy; Kieran Palmer of the Continuum School; Jessica Reed; Lauryn and Aimee Titford with John Elworthy. Second row: The Kids Are Alright certificates and trophies; Alex Street; Rosie Manning; runner-up Emily Hill gets her trophy from Cambridgeshire Fire Chief Graham Stagg. Third row: Madeleine Rumbelow and Kim Alexander, of Wisbech Grammar School; Gemma Tawn with John Elworthy; Jamie Wales; Kid of the Year Michelle Ewart is presented with a trophy by Cambridgeshire Chief Constable Julie Spence. Bottom: Courtney Long, of the Continuum School.

"The Kids Are Alright has been a fundamental assault on society's perceptions of young people. We've championed a very different side to that often reported in the media, reflecting not just a positive side but covering stories of individual courage, stamina, fortitude, ingenuity and a steely-eyed vision for the task in hand. It's been an encouraging experience and one that has won over many of those cynics who expressed to me the unlikelihood of sustaining this campaign over a prolonged period. Well sorry cynics, you were wrong. The evidence is here tonight."

- John Elworthy, editor, *Cambs Times* and *Wisbech Standard*, speaking at the Kids Are Alright Awards

© Cambs Times

Celebrating success: some of the Kids Are Alright campaign team show off their Youth Justice Board's Best Communication in Youth Justice Award. Pictured from left are graphic designer Beth Moore, Hayley Greenham and Tali Iserles (Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board), Trevor Bracken (Police), Ross McGivern (Fenland District Council), Sarah Wynn (Connexions) and Adam Lazzari (*Cambs Times/Wisbech Standard*). The Kids Are Alright was also crowned Community Campaign of the Year at the EDF Energy East of England Media Awards. Launched in February 2009, The Kids Are Alright challenges youth stereotypes by highlighting positive contributions young people make to their communities, using weekly newspaper coverage, posters and events to get its message across. The winning formula's spreading across the country, with Plymouth launching its own Kids Are Alright campaign in March and other areas taking interest. The Fenland campaign will be relaunched in the autumn.

ALMOST FAMOUS

CONGRATULATIONS to Katrina Polfrey, winner of the *Hunts Post's* Almost Famous Song Competition 2009. The witness care officer from Offord D'Arcy, employed by the Crown Prosecution Service, wowed judges with her original track, What Gives You the Right. In December the singer-songwriter beat finalists Uncle Acid and The Deadbeats, The David Whateley Band and Satellite to Nowhere. Katrina's prize included an appearance on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire and a day's professional recording and mixing at Half-Ton Studios in Milton. She also had had photographs taken by award-winning *Hunts Post* photographer Helen Drake. Katrina's music is available to buy from the iTunes store. For more information see www.katrinapolfrey.co.uk

HELP FOR HEROES

A TEAM of Cambridgeshire police officers is set to walk the 300-mile length of The Pennine Way for a good cause. Inspector Paul Rogers and PC Christopher Payne, based at Thorpe Wood Police Station in Peterborough, Superintendent Nick Knight, based at force headquarters in Huntingdon, Sergeant Spencer Evans, from Safer Communities, and businessman David Wightman will take on the challenge from June 21 to 26. Proceeds will go to Help for Heroes, which provides rehabilitation and treatment for members of the armed forces wounded in the conflict in Afghanistan. The team will sleep in tents at five sites along the route and will walk for up to 14 hours a day, starting at 4am and covering 40 to 50 miles. The trek will start at Edale, in Derbyshire, and finish at Yetholme, in Scotland. Inspector Rogers said: "This challenge will take a lot of physical and mental stamina and we will have to do many miles of running, walking, cycling and rowing to condition ourselves. Between now and June we aim to raise as much money as possible for the Help for Heroes charity which helps those who are suffering physically or mentally from the trauma of war." To make a donation visit www.bmycharity.com/penninway2010

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY JUSTICE STAFF OR VOLUNTEERS DOING SOMETHING AMAZING? IF SO WE'D LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT IT! DROP US A LINE AND TELL US WHAT YOU, YOUR MATE OR TEAM HAVE BEEN UP TO - AND YOU MIGHT READ ABOUT IT IN FUTURE EDITIONS OF JUST NEWS. OUR CONTACT DETAILS ARE ON THE BACK OF THIS MAGAZINE.

BREAKIN CONVENTION WITH DANCE OFFENSIVE

By Tali Iserles

A YOUTH dance group from Cambridge was picked to headline at one of the world's biggest breakdance festivals.

Gravity-defying Dance Offensive, whose members include referrals from the Cambridgeshire Youth Offending Service, performed their 15-minute Pressure Drop II show at the Breakin Convention on May 1.

Samriye Adan-Dirie, Ayo Filade, Aaron Jackson-Main, Tom Perry, Shalisha Spencer, Nadira Amrani, Katrina Cheng, Chloe Lemmon, Toby Barker, Poppy Hughes and Andre Rebelo, aged between 10 and 21, strutted their stuff on the main stage in Sadler's Wells.

Dance Offensive was one of just 25 acts picked to perform at the three-day festival, boasting the cream of hip hop dance from around the world.

Their poignant performance earned the group a special mention in a *Times* review of Breakin Convention.

In February the Cambridge crew was invited to audition after sending a recording of their work to festival organisers. In April Dance Offensive were informed they would be headlining at Breakin Convention.

Dance Offensive's artistic director Paul Sadot said: "It's the proudest moment in the history of Dance Offensive – and it shows what young people can achieve given the opportunity and facilities to take themselves seriously. It also shows that you can articulate your emotions through dance – and move other people in the process."

Choreographed by Cathy Waller and directed by Mr Sadot, Pressure Drop II

© Adrien Cressnault

PRETTY IN PINK (AND GREEN)

CROWN Prosecution Service staff joined their Police colleagues to raise cash for cancer sufferers. The kind-hearted employees raised £600 during their Pink and Green Day charity fundraiser in January. The fun and festivities took place in Huntingdon and included a raffle and auction, hosted by Chief Crown Prosecutor for Cambridge, Richard Crowley, with prizes donated by CPS staff. The proceeds were donated to Breast Cancer Care and the Peterborough-baesd Robert Horrell Macmillan Centre, which provides a wide range of treatments and support for cancer patients. This is the second year running that the CPS in Cambridgeshire has held a breat cancer fundraiser.

Pictures: Hayley Greenham

HONOURED

TWO Cambridgeshire justice superheroes were honoured in the Queen's 80th Birthday Honours List, announced on New Year's Day. Congratulations to Chief Constable Julie Spence, awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE), pictured right. Mrs Spence was honoured for her outstanding management skills, her work for the Association of Chief Police Officer's Terrorism and Allied Matters Committee, and commitment towards providing gender equality through the British Association of Women in Policing. Her OBE also recognises her leadership in Thames Valley Police's contribution to operations to protect Heathrow Airport and the Queen Mother's funeral, prior to joining Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Meanwhile Ivy Sturgeon, a personal secretary at HMP Littlehey, was made a Member of the British Empire (MBE). Her award recognised her all-round commitment to the Perry-based prison and those that live and work within it.

JUSTICE SUPERHEROES WANTED!

The Justice Awards

DO you know someone who's gone the extra mile to deliver justice locally? Has your team done something amazing? The Justice Awards are due to be launched soon. The awards are an annual scheme recognising the outstanding achievements of staff and volunteers in the criminal justice system. Last year we had a record 34 nominations from Cambridgeshire, with six making it through to the next stage in the national Justice Awards. Everyone nominated for the national awards was honoured at the Cambridgeshire Justice Awards, which took place during the Chief Constable's Awards Ceremony in November. For more about the Justice Awards 2010 check out www.cjsonline.gov.uk/Cambs

combines dance, music, film and poetry to explore the pressures young people face, based on the dancers' own experiences of growing up.

Since being formed in 2006, Dance Offensive have gone from strength to strength.

Last year the youth dance crew were the surprise star act at the Justice Awards in Westminster.

Dance Offensive engages with hundreds of young people each year and delivers 15 hours of free classes each week.

For more about Dance Offensive see www.danceoffensive.co.uk.

For pictures of Dance Offensive performing at The Kids Are Alright Awards see pages 8 and 9.

JOINING FORCES TO MAKE CAMBRIDGESHIRE SAFER

PUTTING victims and witnesses at the heart of the criminal justice system, bringing more offences to justice and improving public confidence in the justice system are three of the Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board's top priorities.

The Board has just refreshed its three year plans, stating its key objectives for 2010 to 2011. The plans were put together after consultation with interest groups and partners.

Other priorities include reducing bureaucracy by improving systems and processes and providing leadership to ensure justice is done for victims and seen to be done for local communities.

The Board also aims to understand and address potential race disproportionality at key stages in the justice system, recover criminal assets and reduce reoffending.

The Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board is made up of chief officers from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's key justice agencies. The Board is one of 42 Local Criminal Justice Boards across England and Wales.

Our members, together with local partners, are committed to transforming the way in which the criminal justice system works to cut crime and improve services for victims and witnesses.

For more see www.cjsonline.gov.uk/Cambs

Justice Careers

FOUR years ago Petr Torak became a police community support officer in Peterborough so he could give something back to the country that had granted him refugee status. As Roma gipsies, he and his parents had faced persecution in their native Czech Republic. He loved policing so much that two years after training as a PCSO he became a constable. Neil Franklin reports.

AT FIRST sight the incident looked complex and potentially very serious.

A report had come into the police control room that a homeless man had died suddenly near Charters restaurant on the River Nene in Peterborough.

None of the men who had been drinking with the man spoke English so arrangements to bring in an interpreter would have to be made - a process that could've taken hours had Petr Torak not heard about the incident over his radio.

PC Torak, who was due to finish his shift, immediately offered his services, got into his patrol car and drove to the scene.

While his colleagues carried out inquiries, PC Torak took first accounts from the men, who were Slovakian.

He was asked to look at the body in case he recognised the man, but he didn't.

PC Torak said: "I knew both witnesses personally so they were happy to speak to me.

"The men were very upset and they were crying. I had to detach myself from it and get the information I needed."

As a result of inquiries by PC Torak and his colleagues, the death was deemed not to be suspicious and was passed to the coroner.

A challenging role

Using his language skills is only one element of PC Torak's life as a reactive officer, working out of Thorpe Wood Police Station in Peterborough.

Becoming a police constable back in August 2008 has brought many other challenges.

PC Torak said: "I loved the PCSO work but I fancied moving up to become a full police officer.

"It was very stressful and difficult at the start compared to my time as a PCSO. You have more responsibility and paperwork.

"But the more you learn the more it starts making sense and it's less stressful and you get more confident."

A new beginning

PC Torak and his parents first arrived in Britain as refugees.

As Roma gipsies, they fled persecution in their native Czech Republic.

PC Torak can speak Czech, Slovakian, Polish and Portuguese – qualities that come in useful when policing the streets of Peterborough.

He studied law as a teenager but learned more about British law when undergoing training to become a police constable.

Changing attitudes

Becoming a fully fledged police officer has gained PC Torak more respect among the city's Eastern European community but there are still people within his own Roma gipsy community who don't see policing as an acceptable career path.

However, his example has led to other members of the community applying to become PCSOs.

PC Torak now has a keen interest in the relationship between police forces and newly arrived communities.

Last year he travelled to Vienna to attend a conference for Roma gipsy officers, organised by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

He said: "I attended the conference in my own time because I know there will be benefits from this in the future, not just for myself but for the community."

Petr, who hopes to return to a more community-based role in the future, said: "I love the reactive policing role because there is so much stuff going on, but I miss talking to people and using my language skills and my knowledge of other cultures to the extent I did when I was a community officer.

"I would like to go back to neighbourhood policing or the community cohesion unit at Bridge Street."

PUNISHMENT - PAST AND PRESENT

By Helen Yates

WISBECH students took a trip down memory lane during a special event commemorating one hundred years of the Youth Court.

Over 140 students from five local primary schools took part in a mock trial at Wisbech Magistrates Court in November.

Magistrates from across the county dressed up in Edwardian costumes to re-enact a 1909 trial, involving a youth accused of stealing a piece of meat from a shop.

They got to witness what punishment from the past was like and compare it to modern day justice.

Afterwards pupils were given a tour around the court, including a visit to the cells.

As part of the Youth Court commemorations, a competition was held in conjunction with the Wisbech Standard newspaper.

Students swapped their school books for notepads and assumed the role of journalists as they prepared reports on the two mock trials.

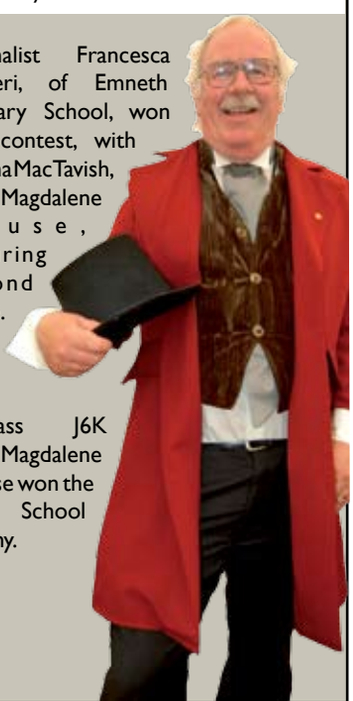
Wisbech Standard editor John Elworthy judged the final entries and the winners were presented with their prizes by the *Standard's* court reporter, Elaine King, at the courthouse in Budding January.

journalist Francesca Deneri, of Emneth Primary School, won the contest, with RhonaMacTavish, of Magdalene House, securing second place.

Class J6K from Magdalene House won the Best School trophy.

Francesca Deneri receives her prize from Elaine King, in front of magistrates: Joanna Melton, Allan Wright, Margaret Angood, Alan Jones, Michael Eady and David Lilley. Picture: The Wisbech Standard

Candlelit courts.... A mock trial, Edwardian style, featuring a boy accused of stealing bread. Pictures: Helen Yates



STUDENTS took on the roles of lawyers, witnesses, magistrates and court staff during local heats of the Citizen Foundation's Mock Trial competition.

Cottenham Village College won the Cambridge contest on March 6, with Spalding High School gaining victory in Peterborough on March 13. Both teams were due to battle it out at the regional finals in Northampton in May.

Peterborough Magistrates Bench chair Cliff Walker (pictured with Spalding students) said: "The Mock Trial competition gives teenagers the opportunity to take part in an important aspect of citizenship, preparing them for the challenges of adult life. Everyone taking part in this year's competition was a credit to their schools and the teachers who supported them."

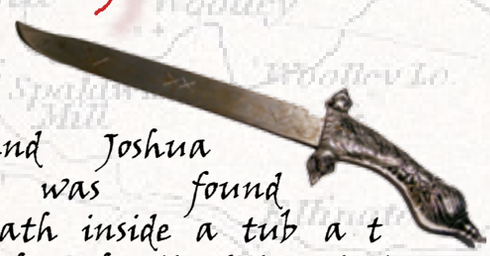
Martyn Sharp and David Gillet thanked magistrates, lawyers and legal advisers for making the Cambridgeshire contests, held in Magistrates Courts, so successful.

The events were supported by Her Majesty's Courts Service and the Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board.

Back in time

The murder at the vicarage

The quiet village of Little Stukeley was shocked by the murder of its elderly rector in 1827. As Huntingdonshire didn't have its own police force at the time, a bobby from Bow Street in London was called to investigate. Tali Iserles reports.



The Reverend Joshua Waterhouse was found bleeding to death inside a tub at the rectory where he lived in Little Stukeley.

Those who discovered the slumped rector were slow to get help. At first they assumed he was druuk, mistaking his groans of pain for intoxicated ramblings.

By the time a surgeon was called from nearby Huntingdon it was too late to save the eccentric clergyman.

Who was the Reverend Waterhouse? And who was responsible for his grisley demise?

Who was Joshua Slade?

The third of nine children, Joshua Slade was born to a family of peasants in Great Stukeley in 1809. As a boy, he received little in the way of formal education but was said to be bright and cunning.

At the age of 14, he stole a key from a neighbour and took some money belonging to her. From then on he indulged in a string of crimes, getting into bad company.

Before the murder of the Reverend Waterhouse, Slade had been employed at the rectory as a labourer. He and his associates had been suspected of stealing alcohol and weapons from the rector.

Slade was 18-years-old when he brutally killed his former employer.

A quarrelsome character

In 1770 Joshua Waterhouse was admitted to St Catherine's College, Cambridge as a sizar - a student receiving financial assistance.

He worked his way up the ranks during his time at the university, becoming a college fellow and ordained priest in 1774 - but had a reputation for getting into quarrels.

In 1798 the college held elections for the post of master. Mr Waterhouse voted for himself but was unsuccessful – the Lord Chancellor nominated another man to the post.

The Reverend Waterhouse's time as rector of Little Stukeley and Coton, from 1813 until 1827, was also filled with controversy.

While living at Coton, the Reverend Waterhouse was accused of immorality by the Bishop of Ely.

He later moved to Little Stukeley, where he gained notoriety for being greedy and obsessed with making money.

He filled up the vicarage with corn and wool, hoping to later sell the goods at a profit. As a result the rooms became infested with rats and mice. [Saunders]

The Reverend Waterhouse boarded up almost all of the 30 windows in the vicarage to avoid paying window tax.

A horse breeder and early riser, the Reverend Waterhouse was renowned for his stinginess throughout the village and struggled to find staff.

"No man shall conquer me"

According to legend, the Reverend Waterhouse kept a gun upstairs in the vicarage and often declared: "No man shall ever conquer me".

Yet on 3 July 1827, the rector was proved wrong.

While the 81-year-old was asleep, a former servant, Joshua Slade, 18, of Great Stukeley, broke into the vicarage.

The Reverend Waterhouse woke up, and upon seeing his intruder, tried to get to where his gun was stored. However, Slade dragged the elderly man downstairs.

Slade slit the Reverend Waterhouse's throat with his sword.

Afterwards the intruder went home, ate his supper and went to bed.

The dying rector was discovered in a tub by two of his employees, William Parker, 14, and Reuben Briggs, 11.

They ran to the house of neighbour Ann Whitney, reporting that they had seen their master groaning in a tub and thought he was drunk.

Several other villagers were informed of the incident but did not investigate it further, agreeing that the eccentric rector was simply tipsy.

A slow and painful death

A young visitor, Frederick Rogers, eventually found the Reverend Waterhouse in his tub but made no immediate attempt to remove the dying man's body.

Later he returned to the scene with another man, William Ashby.

Together they lifted the rector from the tub and laid him outside.

His head was warm but he was barely alive. His throat had been slit and he was bleeding profusely from various wounds.

A messenger was urgently send to get medical help from Huntingdon.

Surgeon George Oakeley, however, was unable to save him. An examination of the tub and of the rector's injuries convinced the medic that Reverend Waterhouse had been violently murdered.

A Coroner's inquest was held at the Bell Inn in the Hundred of Hurstingstone.

The trial

Several weeks before the murder, the Reverend Waterhouse had been burgled.

Joshua Slade's sister had been working for the rector at the time – and she was instantly dismissed, as her master suspected her of being involved in the break-in.

At around this time, Slade was heard threatening the rector.So when the elderly man was found murdered at the vicarage, fingers pointed at Slade.

He was imprisoned by magistrates while an investigation took place.

A Bow Street police officer arrived from London and searched Slade's parents' cottage.

He found a quantity of stolen goods, as well as a blood-stained sword, containing grey hairs.

The verdict

Joshua Slade was tried for murder at the next assizes. He was found guilty and condemned to hang the following Thursday.

However, the execution was postponed, much to the disappointment of the crowd attending. The delay was due to initial doubts about Slade's guilt by the judge.

The prisoner eventually confessed to the chaplain about murdering the rector.

On 1 September 1827 Slade was publicly executed at Huntingdon Mill Common.

Slade's skeleton

After their deaths, the two men's bodies were treated very differently.

The Reverend Waterstone was buried with the epitaph: "Beneath this Tomb his Mangled body's laid Cut, Stabb'd and Murdered by Joshua Slade; His ghastly Wounds a horrid sight to see, And hurl'd at once into Eternity." [Hallifaxes and Waterhouses at Cambridge University]

Joshua Slade's corpse suffered a very different fate.

The High Sheriff at the time of his execution claimed his body and kept it in his family for several generations.

The skeleton was later sold to Mr W. Bryant of Cowper House School in Huntingdon.

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Illustration of Joshua Slade by E Preston, reproduced in *Narrative of the murder of the late rev. J. Waterhouse: with a full report of the trial, confession, & execution of the murderer (J. Slade)*

WHO'S WHO ON THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD?

Tom Jefford

CCJB Chair;
Head of Youth Support Services, Cambridgeshire

Danny Spencer

Governor, HMP Littlehey

John Budd

Chief Officer, Probation Service

Julie Spence

Chief Constable, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Jenny Welch

Relationship Manager, Legal Services Commission

Mike Littlewood

Area Director, Her Majesty's Courts Service

Richard Crowley

Chief Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service

David Padgett

Divisional Manager, Victim Support

Just News

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